

**A JOINT WORKSHOP SESSION of the Burrillville Town Council and the Burrillville Sewer Commission held Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Burrillville Sewer Commission, 141 Clear River Drive, Oakland, RI for and within the Town of Burrillville.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Burrillville Town Council: Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors William A. Andrews, Louis Bleiweis, Edward F. Bonczek, Ronald E. Faford and William E. Gonyea.**

**Burrillville Sewer Commission: Raymond D. George, Chairman; John R. Cowles, Secretary,**

**Others Present: Walter J. Kane, Town Solicitor; Michael C. Wood, Town Manager; William Skerpan, BETA Group Inc. Peggy Franklin, Administrative Aid to the Sewer Commission, John E. Martin, III, Superintendent of the Wastewater Treatment Facility**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Jacqueline Zahn was excused due to a work commitment.**

**Relative to discussions relating to the sewer projects for the Eastern Villages, Contract(s) 19A and 19B.**

**Council President Wallace F. Lees turned the discussion to Raymond**

**D. George, who indicated that the Sewer Commission had requested the workshop because all bids for the Eastern Villages had been rejected because prices exceeded the budget. The Sewer Commission, he said, had asked the engineer to prepare alternatives, which he proposed to communicate to the Town Council. Mr. George asked William Skerpan, Jr., BETA Engineering, to explain the situation and present possible alternatives.**

**William Skerpan, Jr., BETA Engineering, recalled an earlier workshop of the Town Council and Sewer Commission, which resulted in the 2002 bond referendum authorizing bonds for the sewer project. That referendum authorized the final phase of the 1975 facilities plan, i.e. the sewerage of the Eastern Villages. The design for the project was separated into two projects: the Glendale area, to be followed by Mohegan and Nasonville. Mr. Skerpan displayed a plan of the projects and described them in some detail. Mr. Skerpan described a slight “over-design”. This work, which could have been accomplished if bids had been lower than anticipated, consisted of work at the top of Joslin Road and an extension on Douglas Pike and Route 7. Due to the high cost of the project, this additional work would no longer be considered, he said.**

**Mr. Skerpan indicated that the current approach would be to focus on Contract 19A: the Glendale area, which includes a portion of Joslin Road, a section leading to Spring Lake, to the high point on Victory Highway, which would be the discharge point for the Nasonville pump**

station, and the high point on Route 102 which would be the discharge point for the Mohegan Station. The New Village area would be included, he said. The main purpose for this design, according to Mr. Skerpan, is to eliminate the raw discharges to the Branch River. Mr. Skerpan described the design for the river crossing.

Mr. Skerpan discussed delays in the project which resulted in Contract 19A being bid June 8, 2004. The delay adversely affected the prices because contractors generally have their construction projects established. Several contractors who were expected to bid the project did not and the bids received were higher than anticipated. Mr. Skerpan said that high gasoline prices and high steel prices also impacted the prices. The low bid for the job was four million dollars.

Contract 19B consisted of the two pump stations, the Nasonville area, portions of Douglas Pike, pumping to the high point of Route 102. There were also provisions to carry the gravity main across the river and access the Burrillville Middle School. There were only two bidders on this job and the low bid was 3.7 million dollars.

Mr. Skerpan said that he had recommended that the Sewer Commission reject the bids, modify the design, and hope that time would alter some of the negative impacts, such as the price of gasoline and the contractors' schedules. Mr. Skerpan reviewed the plan in detail, identified what he believed to be the most critical

aspects of the design, and proposed an amended plan, which he identified as Contract 19A-1. Mr. Skerpan explained how the elimination of certain pipe work would alleviate some of the financial problems. Mr. Skerpan said that the modified plan would be eligible for a grant under the State Aquafund program. Mr. Skerpan suggested that the modified plan should go out to bid shortly. He did not anticipate that prices on the facilities would be less, but hoped that the pipe work would be bid at a lower price.

The next phase of the project, identified by Mr. Skerpan as Contract 19A-2, should go out to bid in January or February 2005. This phase would include the New Village area, the section going up Victory Highway to the high point, the section going up Route 102 and the section going up Joslin Road to Spring Lake Road. He described the areas that had been removed from the original plan and explained that there appears to be no area of direct discharge and no documented problems with septic in the areas that were eliminated. Mr. Skerpan pointed out that portions that had been eliminated could be returned to the plan if prices allowed.

William Skerpan, Jr., of BETA Engineering, went on to describe Phase 2 of the project, which split Contract 19B into two segments: Contract 19B-1 and Contract 19B-2. Mr. Skerpan said that Mohegan should be the top priority, to include the Atlas Pallet area, due to the direct discharge.

**Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, asked for the rationale behind splitting the project into separate contracts, rather than requesting bids on one, larger project that might include alternatives or phases. It was Mr. Skerpan's philosophy that the separate contracts result in more competitive bidding. Mr. Wood suggested that a larger project might provide a better opportunity of attracting contractors to bid the project.**

**Mr. Wood asked whether the current plan might result in four separate contracts. Mr. Skerpan responded that, in his opinion, Contracts 19A-1, 19A-2 and 19B-1 might be completed within the six million dollar budget, but he expected there would be no funding for Contract 19B-2. Mr. Skerpan described this area as: Nasonville in and around the Western Hotel, going up the hill to the last house, and from the high point on Victory Highway down to the village area. The smaller pump station would be eliminated, he said. There are no documented direct discharges in the area, he said. The details were briefly discussed. Mr. Skerpan said that the modified plan encompasses the changes that DEM has been pressing, i.e. elimination of the direct discharge.**

**Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, asked whether the Aquafund grant, if received, would provide sufficient funds to complete the project. Mr. Skerpan said that the grant money would provide a cushion for Contract 19B-1, but might not offer sufficient funding for the entire project.**

**There was discussion that the entire project has been engineered and that it had received DEM approval.**

**Council President Wallace F. Lees asked whether the proposed design could manage a development at the property known as Cardone Farm. Mr. Skerpan said that it would depend on the size of the development, but that there would be access. Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, indicated that the size of the pipe was sufficient, as long as the use was appropriate.**

**Walter J. Kane pointed out that if the project could be 75 to 80 percent of the original plan, and the pump station is included to handle expansion, the Town could expand as money became available.**

**William Skerpan, Jr., of BETA Engineering, summarized that the Sewer Commission has reviewed the modified plan, would like to bid the first phase as soon as possible, with Contract 19A-2 to be bid in January or February 2005. In response to a question, Mr. Skerpan described the process of seeking the Aquafund grant, a process that would begin after bids have been received. He reviewed the purpose of the workshop, which was to provide sufficient information to the Town Council to respond to questions from the public.**

**Raymond George, Chair, Burrillville Sewer Commission, supported the plan, as presented by Mr. Skerpan, as one the Sewer Commission**

**believes will work.**

**VOTED to adjourn.**

**Motion by Councilor William A. Andrews. Seconded by Councilor William E. Gonyea. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Wallace F. Lees, Councilors William A. Andrews, Louis Bleiweis, Edward F. Bonczek, Ronald E. Faford, and William E. Gonyea. Councilor Jacqueline Zahn was excused.**

**The workshop was taped. The tape is on file with the minutes.**

**Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk**